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AUTHORITY

ago ltr, 29 apr 1980

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

IN REPLY REFER TO

AGDA (M) (27 Oct 69) FOR OT UT 693113

10 November 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 27th Engineer Battalion, Period Ending 31 July 1969

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation in accordance with paragraph 5b, AR 525-15. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT UT, Operational Reports Branch, within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.
2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure appropriate benefits in the future from lessons learned during current operations and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

Kenneth G. Wickham

KENNETH G. WICKHAM
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

1 Incl
as

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 27TH ENGINEER BATTALION (COMBAT)
APO San Francisco 96308

③

EGD-BC-OP

7 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned (RCS CSFOR-65) for the
Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1969.

THRU: Commanding Officer
45th Engineer Group (Const)
ATTN: EGD-3
APO San Francisco 96308

Commanding General
18th Engineer Brigade
ATTN: AVBC-C
APO San Francisco 96377

Commanding General
United States Army Vietnam
ATTN: AVHGC-III
APO San Francisco 96307

Commander-in-Chief
United States Army Pacific
ATTN: GPOR-OT
APO San Francisco 96558

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development
Department of the Army
Washington, D.C. 20310

FOR OT UT

693113
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SECTION I Operations: Significant Organizational or Unit Activities

1. Command:

a. During the reporting period the 27th Engineer Battalion (Combat) with attached units was located at Gia Le Base Camp (YD833152). The battalion forward CP is located at Fire Base Blaze (YD528019) and has been at Blaze the whole of this reporting period. Elements of the battalion have been displaced forward on operation Horace Greely (See Unit Locations Below).

b. This battalion remains assigned to 45th Engineer Group (Const) with the primary mission to provide combat/operational support to the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) and general support to XXIV Corps elements. During the period 1 May to 31 July 1969, operational support has consisted primarily of maintenance and tactical construction of roadway along Rt 547 west of Camp Eagle and construction of tactical fire base facilities along the same route.

c. Commanders:

(1) Battalion Commander

LTC Malcolm D. Johnson 0225-46-4283, 1 May 69 - 25 June 69
LTC Stuart Wood Jr. 0239-34-0904, 26 June 69 - 31 July 69

(2) Company Commanders

(a) A - Maurice Cocchi, CPT, 0047-30-0596, 1 May 69 - 14 July 69
Lawrence H. Bronson, CPT, 0230-62-3954, 15 July - 31 July 69.

(b) B - Kenneth F. Brookins, 1LT, 0230-56-8816, 1 May - 10 May 69
Richard B. Fisk, 1LT, 0573-64-1816, 11 May - 13 June 69
John J. Asta, CPT, 0329-36-7383, 14 June - 31 July 69

(c) C - Chad W. Keok, CPT, 0204-36-3449, 1 May - 28 June 69.
Douglas J. Butler, CPT, 0010-36-3468, 29 June - 31 July 69.

(d) D - Elton W. Ringsak, CPT, 0501-42-8961, 1 May - 8 May 69.
Jeff A. Lambeth, 1LT, 0239-74-1009, 9 May - 16 June 69
Allan G. Doyle Jr., CPT, 0501-42-8961, 17 June - 31 July 69

(e) HHC - William W. Lane, 1LT, 0351-34-6906, 1 May - 17 July 69
Robert N. Stromberg, CPT, 0536-36-0444, 18 July - 31 July 69

d. Organizational Structures:

(1) Assigned

HHC - Located at Gia Le during entire period with elements of all staff sections, battalion maintenance section and communications section located and operating at the forward CP at FB Blaze (YD528019). The heavy equipment platoon was also located at Blaze.

- A - Located at FB Blaze (YD528019) from 1 May 1969 to 23 May 1969 on which date entire company moved to FB Cannon (YD472030). From 24 May 1969 to 21 July 1969 the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd platoons moved on a day to day basis between NDP's 1 through 5, depending on where the respective platoons were working and which NDP was closest at the close of the work day. NDP#1 (YD453008) NDP#2 (YD457998) NDP#3 (YD454986) NDP#4 (YD447973) NDP#5 (YD438966). On 22 July 1969 the company moved back to FB Blaze and remained there through 31 July 1969.
- B - Located at FB Blaze (YD528019) from 1 May 1969 through 23 July 1969 with line platoons (1st, 2nd, 3rd) working and setting up at night between NDP's #2 (YD457998) #3, (YD454986) and #5 (YD438966). On 24 July 1969 entire company moved to NDP#5 and remained there through 31 July 1969.
- C - Located at FB Blaze (YD528019) throughout the entire reporting period.
- D - Located at FB Bastogne (YD623096) from 1 May 1969 through 7 July 1969. On 8 July 1969 company moved to FB Birmingham (YD703102) and remained there throughout 31 July 1969. Throughout the reporting period the 3rd Platoon was located at River Run Quarry Site (YD701098).

(2) Attached Units

2nd Platoon, A Co, 14th Engineer Battalion (Combat). Unit under operational control of D Co, 27th Engineer Battalion (Combat) from 22 May 1969 through 20 June 1969 and was located at FB Bastogne (YD625096) during this period. On 21 June 1969 returned to the operational control of A Co, 14th Engineer Battalion (Combat).

D Co, 14th Engineer Battalion (Combat). On 1 June 1969, unit was placed under operational control of A Co, 27th Engineer Battalion (Combat) and retained that status until 4 July 1969 at which time unit was returned to the 14th Engineer Battalion (Combat). Unit located at FB Cannon (YD472030) during this period.

59th Engineer Company (Land Clearing). Located at FB Blaze (YD528019) from 1 May 1969 to 1 June 1969. On 2 June 1969 moved to FB Bastogne (YD623096) and remained there until 10 June 1969. Moved back to FB Blaze on 11 June 1969 and remained there until 23 June 1969. On 24 June 1969 moved to NDP#5 (YD438966). On 7 July 1969 company was placed under operational control of 14th Engineer Battalion (Combat), and attached to 45th Engineer Gp (Const). Earth Moving Platoon, D Co, 87th Engineer Battalion (Construction). Unit under operational control of 27th Engineer Battalion (Combat) from 11 May 1969 through 10 July 1969, on which day they returned to the operational control of 45th Engineer Group (Const). Located at FB Blaze (YD528019) during this period.

511th Engineer Company (Panel Bridge). Located at FB Bastogne from 1 May 1969 through 24 June 1969 and was under the operational control of D Company, 27th Engineer Battalion (Combat). On 25 June 1969 was relieved attachment to 27th Engineer Battalion (Combat) and attached to 39th Engineer Battalion (Combat).

591st Engineer Company (Light Equipment). Located at Gia Le for the updating period, with elements displaced forward in support of Operation Horace Greely. (See attached report).

630th Engineer Company (Light Equipment). Attached to 27th Engineer Battalion (Combat) on 1 May 1969, (minus 2nd Platoon which remained under operational control of 14th Engineer Battalion (Combat) and 3rd Platoon which was under operational control of 39th Engineer Battalion (Combat). Arrived Gia Le on 3 May 1969 and on 4 May 1969 moved to NDP Veghel (YD550035). Moved to LZ Ann (YD558031) on 14 May 1969 and was joined there by the 3rd Platoon on 16 May 1969. (released from operational control of 39th Engineer Battalion (Combat) on 15 May 1969). Moved on 17 June 1969 to FB Blaze (YD528019) and remained at that location through 31 July 1969. (See attached report).

2. Personnel, Administration, Morale and Discipline

- a. As of the end of the reporting period, the Battalion strength including attachments was as follows:

	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>NCO</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
*Auth	46	5	164	969	1184
*Asg	40	5	107	857	1009

b. Personnel Statistics

- (1) KIA: EM - 4; OFF - 0
- (2) WIA: EM - 32; OFF - 1
- (3) Medivac out of country: EM - 30; OFF - 0
- (4) 60 day losses
 - (a) ETS: EM - 65; OFF - 18
 - (b) DEROS: EM - 287; OFF - 11
- (5) Extensions EM - 66; OFF - 1

c. Discipline

(1) Field Grade Article 15's	12
(2) Company Grade Article 15's	63
(3) Summary Court Martials	2
(4) Special Court Martials	9
(5) General Court Martials	0

d. Awards

- (1) Bronze Star for achievement/service: 19
- (2) Army Commendation Medal for achievement/service: 22
- (3) Bronze Star for Valor: 4
- (4) Army Commendation Medal for Valor: 4
- (5) Purple Heart: 6

3. Intelligence and Counterintelligence

- a. Battalion intelligence activities remain at a low level due to operation with 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) area of operations. Daily intelligence summaries are received from the 101st.

b. Counterintelligence Activities:

- (1) Confidential clearances granted: 16
- (2) Secret clearances granted or validated: 22
- (3) Secret Crypto clearances granted or validated: 2
- (4) Top Secret clearances validated: 1
- (5) Revocations, Suspensions, etc: 0

4. Plans, Operations and Training

a. HHC - Continued to provide engineer equipment support to line units are required within the Battalion AO. Provided support to command and staff elements. Operated and maintained one water point at Gia Le and four(4) tactical water points at FB Birmingham, FB Bastogne, FB Blaze and FB Cannon.

b. A Co - Accomplished following projects or tasks during the reporting period.

- (1) Performed daily minesweeps in Battalion AO.
- (2) In support of Horace Greely:
 - (a) Widened road between YD473030 and YC438-967 (approx 15 kilometers of road) using organic equipment and demo. Due to the large rock formations in this section of road 43,242 lbs of demolition was used.
 - (b) Emplaced 70 culverts between YD527023 and YC438967.

c. B Co - Accomplished following projects or tasks during the reporting period.

- (1) Performed daily minesweeps in Battalion AO.
- (2) Constructed Battalion TOC at FB Blaze.
- (3) Constructed medical bunker at FB Blaze.
- (4) Constructed hook pad at FB Blaze.
- (5) In support of Operation Horace Greely:
 - (a) Constructed four(4) farm sites between FB Blaze and FB Cannon (YD472028).
 - (b) Emplaced one(1) each culvert at the following five(5) locations: YD439021, YC458999, YC458-998, YD451030, YD453031.
 - (c) Helped clear and widen road between FB Cannon and NDP/5, using 11,410 lbs of explosives. Moved 3,050 cu yds of rock and laterite.

d. C Co - Accomplished following projects or tasks during the reporting period.

- (1) Performed daily minesweeps in Battalion AO.
- (2) Constructed Song Bo (Rao Nai) Bridge.
- (3) Preparation of Crusher Site at FB Blaze.
- (4) Constructed ten(10) sleeping bunkers at FB Blaze and started 31 more.

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(5) In support of Horace Greely:

- (a) Realigned and maintained Rt 547 from LZ Ann to FSB Blaze.
- (b) Maintained Rt 547 from FB Blaze to FB Cannon.

e. D Co - Accomplished the following projects or tasks during the reporting period.

- (1) Performed daily minesweep in Battalion AO.
- (2) Performed continuing road maintenance on Rt 547 from Camp Eagle to FB Bastogne with equipment support of the 591st Engineer Company (Light Equipment).
- (3) Operated rock crusher and river run site at YD701098 with quarry detachment of 591st Engineer Company (Light Equipment) Average Cu YDs 2 1/2 (-) rock produced 2146 cu yds per week.
- (4) Closed and dismantled facilities located at FB Bastogne.
- (5) Accomplished in support of Operation Horace Greely:
 - (a) Upgraded and maintained Rt 547 from FB Bastogne to LZ Ann, with equipment support of 591st Engineer Company (Light Equipment).
 - (b) Emplaced approximately 20 culverts, and constructed timber headwalls for approximately 25 culverts.
 - (c) Construction of two(2) timber trestle bridges

f. 591st Engineer Company (Light Equipment) See Attached Report

g. 630th Engineer Company (Light Equipment) See Attached Report

- 5. Logistics: None
- 6. Force Development: None
- 7. Command Management: None
- 8. Inspector General: No problems
- 9. Civil Affairs: None

SECTION II PART I OBSERVATIONS (Lessons Learned)

1. Item: Assembling of Pre-fab Culvert

Observation: In transportation and handling of pre-fab culvert some pieces became sprung and bent out of shape slightly, causing undue difficulty and consumption of time in lining up pieces for assembly.

Lesson Learned: It was found that by using longer bolts than those provided by the manufacturer, the nut can be started easily therefore expediting the lining up and tightening of 2 or more pieces of culvert. Suggest that a certain percentage of culvert bolts provided by the manufacturer come in 5" lengths.

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2. Item: Safety

Observation: The large overhangs and tree falls resulting from cutting through mountainous wooded areas with a D-7 created hazardous working conditions for the operator and on occasions caused injury to the operator or damage to the equipment.

Lesson Learned: By mounting the cab from a Rome Flow kit on the D-7 we were able to adequately protect the operator and equipment from damage.

3. Item: Repair Parts for Engineer Equipment

Observation: In the case of an operation such as Horace Greely (CD 232-8331-0-12) the anticipated repair parts requirements could not be determined prior to beginning operations. Consequently, our excessive amount of down time for engineer equipment was spent on awaiting parts. The unusually high consumption of repair parts that we have experienced throughout this operation quickly deleted the PLL of units and the ASL of direct support units. Restocking was impossible, for repair parts were consumed as soon as they arrived.

Lesson Learned: Suggest master listing of repair parts required be distributed to units undertaking similar projects and special attention be given for added stockage level.

4. Item: Culvert Wash-out

Observation: A problem encountered when placing culverts in mountainous areas was the fact that during the rainy season torrents of water caused washout of culverts emplaced using conventional method.

Lesson Learned: By anchoring the culverts with a simple cable-deadman system, and using rock and wire mesh for fill, the water was allowed (during heavy rains) to flow over the roadway with minimal damage to the culvert and roadway i.e., Texas Culvert.

SECTION III Headquarters, Department of the Army, Survey Information

None

~~2 Incl~~

~~ORLL, 591st Engr Co (LE)~~

~~ORLL, 630th Engr Co (LE)~~

Incls wd, HQ, DA. Comments incorporated into 27th Engr Bn ORLL.

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8 - CG, 18th Engr Bde, ATTN: AVBC-C, APO 96377 (Courier)

7 - CO, 45th Engr Gp (Const) ATTN: EGD-3, APO 96308 (Courier)

10 - S-3, 27th Engr Bn (C)

2 - Each Company, 27th Engr Bn (C)

2 - 591st Engr Co (LE)

2 - 630th Engr Co (LE)

Stuart Wood Jr.
for: STUART WOOD JR.
LTC CE
Commanding

EGD-3 (10 Aug 69) 1st Ind


SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 27th Engineer Battalion (Combat)
for the Period Ending 31 July 1969 (RCS CSFOR-65).

DA, Headquarters, 45th Engineer Group (Const), APO 96308 21 August 1969

TO: Commanding General, 18th Engineer Brigade, ATTN: AVBC-C, APO 96377

1. The Operational Report - Lessons Learned of the 27th Engineer Battalion (Combat) has been reviewed by this headquarters and is considered to be an excellent account of the 27th Engineer Battalion's activities during the reporting period ending 31 July 1969.

2. This headquarters concurs with the observations and recommendations of the Battalion Commander.


CARROLL N. LETELLIER
Colonel, CE
Commanding

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AVHCC-DST (7 Aug 69) 3d Ind

SUBJECT: Operation Report-Lessons Learned (RCS CSFOR-65) for the
Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1969.

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 18 SEP 1969

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT,
APO 96558

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 July 1969 from Headquarters, 27th Engineer Battalion (Combat).

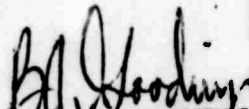
2. Comments follow:

a. Reference item concerning "Repair Parts for Engineer Equipment", Section II, page 7, paragraph 3; nonconcur. The stockage of additional repair parts at the unit and DSU level to cover some contingency places an unnecessary burden on the unit and DSU, and contributes to the inefficient management of repair parts command-wide. The 1st Logistical Command Reg No. 700-23 provides commanders authority to increase PLL's based on projected operations.

b. Reference item concerning "Rome Plow Blade", Inclosure 1, section II, page 6, paragraph 2; nonconcur. This appears to recommend cutting the stinger off the Rome Plow Blade. This is an unauthorized modification and severely restricts the ability of the Rome Plow blade to perform its sole function, that of land clearing.

c. Reference item concerning "Providing a hot meal as soon as possible after a move", Inclosure 2, Section II, page 3, paragraph E1; concur. Procedures for setting up and operating mobile kitchen trucks are contained in TM 10-405. No further action is required.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


B. A. GOODWIN
CPT, AGC
Assistant Adjutant General

Cy turn:
27th Engr Bn
18th Engr Bde

(12)

AVBC-CG (7 Aug 69) 2nd Ind

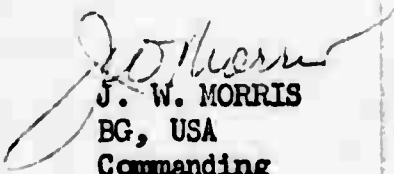
SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 27th Engineer Battalion (Combat) for
the Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

DA, HEADQUARTERS, 18TH ENGINEER BRIGADE, APO 96377 1 SEP 1969

TO: Commanding General, U.S. Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DST, APO 96375

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report - Lessons Learned for the 27th Engineer Battalion (Combat), as indorsed by the 45th Engineer Group (Const). The report is considered to be an excellent account of the Battalion's activities during the reporting period.

2. This headquarters concurs with the observations and recommendations of the Battalion and Group Commanders.


J. W. MORRIS
BG, USA
Commanding

CF:

- 1 - CO, 45th Engr Gp
- 1 - CO, 27th Engr Bn

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GPOP-DT (7 Aug 69) 4th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 27th Engineer Battalion (Combat)
for Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-64 (R1)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 14 OCT 69

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters concurs in subject report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:


C. L. SHORTT
CPT, AGC
Asst AG